PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Divisional Application of	)	
	)	FOR: CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR
Rob NEEPER	)	HIGH VOLUME TREATMENT OF
	)	SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS
Serial No.: Unknown	)	
	)	Group
Filed: Herewith	)	Art Unit: 1743
Serial No.: 09/549,285	)	
Filed: April 14, 2000	)	
	)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Rule 60 Divisional Application relating to U.S. Serial No. 09/549,285 filed on April 14, 2000.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

November 19, 2001
(Mailing Date)

Melissa J. Leffler
(Typed Name)

(Signature)

November 19, 2001
(Date of Signature)

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Please amend the Divisional application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 5, before "This application is related to..." insert -- This application is a divisional application of application 09/549,285 filed April 14, 2000.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-20 without prejudice.

REMARKS

The Applicants elected claims 1-20 in response to a restriction requirement issued by the Examiner by telephone interview on November 15, 2001. At that time the Applicants reserved the right to file a divisional application with the remaining claims 21-22. The Applicants request that these claims be examined in this divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 19, 2001

By: _____

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Docket No.: 6444-PA05D

VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS INDICATING CHANGES

On page 1, starting on line 5.

This application is a divisional application of application 09/549,285 filed April 14, 2000. This application is related to applications Serial No. 09/_____, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS, and Serial No. 09/_____, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISPENSING SOLUTION TO A MULTI-WELL CONTAINER,, each having the same filing date as, and assigned to the assignee of, the present application.

Delete claims 1-20.

CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR HIGH VOLUME TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of application 09/549,285 filed April 14, 2000. This application is related to applications Serial No. 09/_____, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS, and Serial No. 09/_____, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISPENSING SOLUTION TO A MULTI-WELL CONTAINER,, each having the same filing date as, and assigned to the assignee of, the present application.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a system and method for automated treatment of chemical compounds or biological materials on solid supports, and more specifically, a system and method for automated purification, elution, cleavage, transfer, concentration and/or evaporation of biological or chemical samples on solid supports.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In recent years, the pharmaceuticals industry has devoted significant resources to finding ways to cut the time required for identification and validation of lead drug candidates. Disciplines that have arisen to address this need include high-throughput screening and combinatorial chemistry. Using combinatorial methods, libraries made up of large numbers of compounds are randomly or semi-randomly synthesized, then evaluated using high-throughput screening, looking for biological activity or chemical reactions. The availability of solid-phase supports, e.g., resin beads, balls, disks or tubes, for organic synthesis has contributed significantly to the ability to create large combinatorial libraries, making it possible to synthesize a unique compound on each support. Encoding of the solid support enables

CLAIMS

21. A method of automated treatment of a plurality of biological or chemical samples on solid supports, the method comprising:

placing a sample and solid support in a sample well within a sample/collection container comprising a plurality of sample wells;

loading the sample/collection container onto a centrifuge rotor;

before or after loading the sample/collection container onto the centrifuge rotor, dispensing a solution into each well of the plurality of wells;

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a first speed, wherein the first speed is selected to minimize creep between the sample wells; and

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a second speed higher than the first speed to concentrate a solution containing the sample in the bottom of a collection well, wherein the second speed is selected to minimize bumping.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the second speed is further selected to transfer the solution containing the sample through a drain into a separate collection well.